# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
### Education Center
#### 440 NORTH BROAD STREET
#### PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130

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November 1, 2005


Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

> **In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Philadelphia School District hereby nominates Robert Westall for the school representative position to the Universal Service Administrative Company, pursuant to the public notice released October 3, 2005.

Bob Westall holds the position of Executive Director of Technology Services for the Philadelphia School District, where he has led the development of K-12 technology since 1997. He has coordinated Philadelphia's successful implementation and participation in the Universal Service E-rate program since its inception and knows the program's rules, regulations, procedures and nuances. He brings with him not only knowledge of the telecommunications industry, but also the perspective of an actual applicant that has navigated its way through the E-rate program since its inception.

Mr. Westall served with distinction on the SLD's Waste, Fraud and Abuse Task Force in 2003, representing the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of 60 of the nation's largest urban public school systems. But Mr. Westall will not only represent the perspective of the large urban schools, he will represent the interests of all schools in the country – both large and small, urban and rural, wealthy and poor. Because of his daily interaction with students, teachers, administrators and funding considerations he is well qualified to speak on behalf of the school applicant community. He knows first-hand the incredible impact E-rate can have on the delivery of high-quality educational services.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations recently released their staff report detailing the findings of a year-long investigation into the E-rate program and contained in that report was an example of how the Philadelphia School District had effectively used the E-rate program. We are extremely proud of this mention and owe the credit for it to Bob and his management of the District's participation in the E-rate program.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.  If selected to join the USAC Board of Directors, he will proudly represent the Chairman as well as all schools in the nation.


Sincerely,

Patricia L. Renzulli
Senior Vice President, Information Technology

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**Employment**    **School District of Philadelphia.  Philadelphia, PA**
January 2003 - Present
*Executive Director, Technology Services*

- Consolidated telecommunications, networking, security, and technical operations divisions.
- Conducted analysis, cost-benefit model, and proposal solicitation resulting in the outsourcing of the District's operational systems (data center) environment.
- Initiated first phase of the District's next-generation metropolitan fiber-optic network.
- Solicited an approximate $1 million donation of hardware, software, licensing, and support services to provide universal teacher-parent access to voice messaging.
- Initiated first phase of a comprehensive wireless school network infrastructure plan.
- Established an automated telephone message delivery system for absentee notification and general school-based message delivery.
- Represented large urban school districts with participation on a federal task force for the prevention of waste, fraud, and abuse within the Universal Service Fund.
- Raised District's external USF funding support to a total in excess of $220 million.
- Engaged the Council of the Great City Schools and federal legislators in ongoing investigations and decision-making discussions surrounding the USF program.

September 1997 – December 2002
*Director, Telecommunications & Networking*

- Established divisional unit to engineer, construct, and maintain a telecommunications infrastructure in support of approximately 325 school and administrative locations.
- Constructed a Citywide high-speed data network linking all District facilities.
- Developed infrastructure standards, specifications, processes, and support structures.
- Directly responsible for a composite $55+ million annual operating, categorical, and capital budget.
- Created a nationally recognized model for an urban district-wide Universal Service program implementation attracting over $150 million in federal technology funding assistance.
- Constructed a universal voice, video, and data communications infrastructure throughout all school and administrative facilities providing network, telephone, paging, and cable television access to over 18,500 rooms.
- Led a multiyear charge through the Department of Labor and Industry to establish an unprecedented prevailing telecommunications wage rate resulting in an approximate District savings of $20 million.

**Brooks/Cole Center for Advanced Technology,  Philadelphia, PA**
November 1994 – August 1997
*Director and Founder*

- Established collaborative business relationships with commercial partners and publishing entities to promote academic technology through software development, networking technologies, consulting, training, and research.

- Constructed non-profit, externally funded technology center employing over 25 engineers, consultants, and educators.

**Drexel University,  Philadelphia, PA**
November 1989 – October 1994
*Manager, Telecommunications and Networking, Office of Computing Services*

- Responsible for the design, development, growth, and management of the campus telecommunications infrastructure.
- Managed the development of evolving communications software projects both internal and external to the University.

December 1983 – October 1989
*Project Manager / Systems Engineer, Office of Computing Services*

- Managed multi-year implementation of the Pew Charitable Trust academic software development partnership resulting in the pioneering of educational and instructional courseware and classroom computing tools.
- Served as technical architect, systems engineer, and project administrator for collaborative software and technology support projects.
- Selected clients:
    Pacer Software, Inc.  La Jolla, CA
    Prime Computer, Inc.  Framingham, MA
    Apple Computer, Inc.  Cupertino, CA
    UniSys, Inc., Training Services.  Ft. Washington, PA
    ISI/Best, Inc.  Philadelphia, PA
    Franklin & Marshall College.  Lancaster, PA
    Maryland Job Corp Center.  Towson, MD
    Mayor's Office of Community Outreach and Services.  Philadelphia, PA

**Professional Engagements**

**School District of Philadelphia.  Philadelphia, PA**
September 1994 – August 1997
*Consultant, Office of Information Technology*

- Developed collaborative relationship with the City of Philadelphia and Bell Atlantic for the design and engineering of a SONET-based wide-area network infrastructure.
- Assisted in the planning and utilization of the statewide Link-to-Learn grant.
- Assumed general range of functions including network systems administration, LAN/WAN design, network analysis, telecommunications planning, troubleshooting, and technical support.

**Star Communications Group.  Drexel Hill, PA**
January 1993 – December 1996
*Consulting Engineer*

- Provided a wide range of technical LAN/WAN engineering services including the design, development, implementation, support, and troubleshooting of network systems and servers.
- Selected clients:
    Apple Computer, Inc.  Cupertino, CA
    Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit.  Lancaster, PA
    Bucks County Intermediate Unit.  Doylestown, PA
    Delaware Department of Transportation.  Wilmington, DE

I.E. Dupont, Inc., Networking Services.  Wilmington, DE

**Bliss Interactive Technologies.   Austin, TX**
March 1991 – January 1995
*Software Engineer, Design and Development*

- Developed cross-platform collaborative and network-based commercial application and textbook supplemental software.
- Selected clients:
    Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.  New York, NY
    Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.  Austin, TX
    Dell Computer, Inc.  Austin, TX

**MacLaboratory, Inc.  Devon, PA**
September 1987 – Present
*Author / Senior Engineer*

- Designed, developed, authored, and managed commercial software products and solutions including academic, laboratory, instrumental, network/utility, and assistive applications.
- Established a formal relationship with the GERoTech assistive living initiative and surrounding area rehabilitation centers in support of the development of prosthesis-ware for adaptive environments.
- Selected clients:
    International Thomson Publishing, Inc.  Toronto, CA
    Hanspeter-Albisser-Stiftung.  Zürich, Switzerland
    Now Software, Inc.  Boston, MA
    University of Pennsylvania.  Philadelphia, PA

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| **Education** | B.S., Computer Science; Minor, Electrical & Computer Engineering<br>Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA<br>June 1989, Magna Cum Laude<br>Drexel Alumni Association Outstanding Senior of the Year, 1989<br><br>M.S., Computer Science; Minor, Psychology<br>Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA<br>June 1991 |
| **Software/ Patents** | Chute, D.L., and Westall, R.F.;<br>    *Neuropsychology of CNS*, Macintosh, 1985, 1990, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, Macintosh, 1985, 1990, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Problem Solving*, Macintosh, 1985, 1990, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Cerebral Hemisphere Functions*, Macintosh, 1986, 1990, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Pitch and Auditory Perception*, Macintosh, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Survey Questionnaire and Survey Data Summary*, Macintosh, 1987, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Reaction Time*, Macintosh, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994.<br>    *Polygraph*, Macintosh, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994.<br>    *MacLaboratory Controller*, Macintosh, 1989, 1994.<br>    *Tone Generator*, Macintosh, 1986.<br><br>Westall, R.F. *MultiDrive*, Macintosh, 1991, 1992. |

Chute, D.L., and Westall, R.F. *MacLaboratory for Psychology: Research Version 3.0* (CD-ROM) Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, 1994

Chute, D.L., and Westall, R.F. *B/C PowerLaboratory* (CD-ROM) Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, 1996

**Affiliations**    Charter President/Member, Pennsylvania Epsilon Chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon
Member, Pi Mu Epsilon
Member, Association for Computing Machinery, SIGHCI Board
Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
Member, Advisory Board, Drexel University RERC on Cognitive Technologies